

# AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.

## FREQUENT INQUIRIES ABOUT IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Dear fellow American Citizens,

For the past month since we have brought to your attention the revisions to the new Mongolian Law on the Legal Status of the Foreign Nationals, we have received an increasing number of complaints, inquiries and requests for assistance regarding immigration issues.

We are working with the relevant authorities to clarify the situation, publicize any new regulations, and foster more travel between our two countries. We will also be happy to investigate any complaints or concerns that you may have with respect to immigration questions. However, the Mongolian Immigration Authority has sole authority to make the final decision on immigration issues. We would like to remind you that all Americans in Mongolia are subject to Mongolian law and are required to follow Mongolian immigration rules and register with the Immigration if their stay in Mongolia exceeds 30 days. As long as the immigration authorities are acting in compliance with Mongolian law, then we are limited in our ability to intervene in the cases.

To answer any questions and discuss any concerns you may have, Consular Section would like to invite you to attend the **Town Hall Meeting on Security and Immigration Issues in Mongolia** where Tim Feeney, the Regional Security Officer, will discuss the increasing security issues in Mongolia, and Consul Phil Cargile will talk about the revisions in the new Law of Mongolia on the Legal Status of Foreign Nationals.

Light refreshments will be served and you are welcome to bring something to share!

The Town Hall Meeting will take place at the Star Apartments Community Center on **Tuesday, May 17, between 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

If you will be attending, please send an email with the names of people who will be attending to [UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov](mailto:UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov) no later than Sunday, May 15, . Your passport or a photo ID is required to get through the guard gate at Star Apartments. For Mongolian parents of American children, one parent is welcome to attend the Town Hall Meeting. Please note that due to the nature of the meeting and space limitations, we discourage you from bringing children.



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**U.S. Embassy  
Ulaanbaatar, Con-  
sular Section** on  
Facebook.

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## GREEN—RAISING HAPPY HOUR AT STAR COMMUNITY CENTER

Dear Fellow American Citizens,

Please join the U.S. Embassy's Green Team in celebrating their First Greening Diplomacy Initiative Award and raising funds for the trees planting in UB!

Meet your old friends and make new ones, enjoy great music, sample delicious food and, most important, BE A PART of GREENING UB!

Hope to see you at this fun-filled event!



WHERE: STAR Apartments Community Center  
 WHEN: Friday, May 6, 5:30 - 10:00 pm  
 TICKET: 3,000 tg/ Adult 1,000 tg/Child over 7 y.o.

#### DID YOU REMEMBER TO FILE YOUR TAXES ?

If not, don't worry. If you reside overseas or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return until June 15. However, any tax due must have been paid by the original return due date (April 15) to avoid interest charges.

Publication 4732 contains specific tax information for Americans living abroad and can be downloaded at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4732.pdf>.

STATE TAX RETURNS: For individual state income tax information, visit <http://www.taxadmin.org/>. The Embassy does not have state tax forms or state tax information.

Taxpayers with an AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) of \$58,000 or less can electronically file their tax return for free using [freefile](#). Taxpayers with an AGI greater than \$58,000 can [efile by purchasing commercial software](#).

A special note for U.S. citizens who maintain in excess of \$10,000 in a foreign bank account: you are required to report your financial information in a Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) to the U.S. Department of Treasury before June 30th. For more information, visit <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0..id=148849.00.html>.

#### Americans are Encouraged to take the FSOT in Mongolia

U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar will be administering the Foreign Service Officer Test in Mongolia on June 11, 2011. American citizens interested in careers in the Foreign Service are encouraged to visit <http://careers.state.gov> to learn more about what the Foreign Service does and to register online for the test.

**The deadline for registering for the test is May 23, 2011.**



**“If you plant one tree,  
it is a good deed for this  
lifetime;  
If you plant two trees,  
it is a good deed  
for your next life” -  
Mongolian proverb**



### SECURITY ADVISORY

As the weather warms and the days become longer, people from all walks of life spend more time outside and attempt to break the solitude of being trapped inside during the cold winter months and unfortunately this includes criminals.

Spring time historically sees an increase in pick pockets, assaults, sexual assaults, and rapes. Mongolians chalk this phenomenon up to ‘Spring Madness.’

Only a few weeks into the winter thaw, Ulaanbaatar expat community has suffered an unprovoked day time assault against a female English language teacher. . Assaults can occur anywhere at any time. Additionally, as we peel away and store the heavy winter jackets, we make ourselves vulnerable to pick pockets. The heavy winter jackets provided an extra layer of protection against wandering hands when at the supermarket or walking around tourist attractions. As the nights become warmer, street children and beggars will become more aggressive in their actions around the expat restaurants, bars, and supermarkets. If a specific establishment is known to have aggressive beggars frequent the perimeter with no security staff on hand, we advise you to avoid the establishment and take your business elsewhere. Finally, complaints to the establishment’s management about the aggressive beggars and the threat of taking your business elsewhere will hopefully alert them to the problem and the need to take immediate action.

All American citizens are reminded to exercise caution and good judgment:

- Avoid going anywhere alone. If you must travel alone, ensure you have your cell phone and that someone is aware of your plans.
- Be vigilant of your surroundings, even the area near your home can be a dangerous place.
- Maintain a low profile; do not draw unnecessary attention to yourself.
- When driving, ensure that your doors are locked and windows closed.
- Know where the nearest safe havens are located (police booths, 24 hour shops, bus stops, and restaurants).

Thankfully, there is no evidence that indicates U.S. citizens are being specifically targeted in this seasonal increase in crime. We encourage everyone to commit themselves to taking that extra minute to think about doing the right thing as it pertains to security.

If you are a victim of a crime, regardless of how minor you feel the incident was, please immediately contact the Consular Section. We cannot alert the American community of potentially new dangerous areas and criminal tactics without your input.

\* Courtesy Regional Security Officer

## A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia

The Embassy encourages all business groups, churches, private companies, and other organizations with a nucleus of American citizens to make sure that the Embassy has a point of contact for your group.

To receive Embassy announcements and advisories via e-mail, please join the Embassy Newslist. Your membership in the Embassy Newslist will assure you of receiving Embassy issued announcements and advisories in a timely manner. Your private information will be kept strictly confidential. Send an email to the Embassy at [UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov](mailto:UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov) giving the name of your organization, a point of contact (POC), email address, phone number, and any other contact information. It is not necessary that your POC be an American citizen. The Embassy will use this information to contact your group in an emergency. Please type "Group Contact Info" on the subject line of your email.



### Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services  
Embassy of the United States  
11<sup>th</sup> Micro District  
Big Ring Road  
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia  
Tel: 976-11329-095  
Fax: 976-11320-776  
E-mail: [UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov](mailto:UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov)  
- or -  
American Embassy Ulaanbaatar  
4410 Ulaan Baatar Place  
Washington, DC, 20521-4410

### SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

**Stay Informed.** Sign up for our free [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (formerly known as "Travel Registration" or "Registration with Embassies") to receive the latest travel updates and information! You only need to sign up once, and then you can add and delete trips from your account based on your current travel plans!

**Stay Connected.** By connecting with us on the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#), we will be able to assist you better in the case of an emergency, such as if you lose your passport or it is stolen while you are abroad. We also assist U.S. citizens in other emergencies, such as in natural disasters.

**Stay Safe.** We believe that a well-informed traveler is a safer traveler. Our consular officers around the world compile [country-specific information](#), [travel alerts](#), [travel warnings](#), fact sheets and warden messages to provide you with timely and accurate travel information about every country where you may travel. Stay informed by connecting with us via our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) so you can have safe and enjoyable travels!

### Upcoming Holidays

May 30—Memorial Day

June 1—Mother and Child Day

### Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Syria](#) 04/25/2011  
[Uzbekistan](#) 04/25/2011  
[Mexico](#) 04/22/2011  
[Burkina Faso](#) 04/19/2011  
[Nigeria](#) 04/15/2011  
[Cote d'Ivoire](#) 04/14/2011  
[Iraq](#) 04/12/2011  
[Bahrain](#) 04/12/2011  
[Lebanon](#) 04/04/2011  
  
[World Wide](#) 05/01/2011  
[Egypt](#) 04/28/2011  
[Japan](#) 04/14/2011  
[Tunisia](#) 04/11/2011

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)